

ribbon cable support strips within said housing, and wherein said multiple light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing;

a mounting rail; and

co-operable longitudinally extending formations on said rail and on said housing for effecting a snap or sliding engagement of the housing to the rail so that the housing is generally parallel to the rail.

38. (Twice Amended) A strip lighting system, including:

a plurality of elongate housings at least partly of translucent material;

means in each of said housings to locate support means for a multiplicity of light sources at intervals in said housing and activatable so that the housing, when viewed from the outside through the translucent material, appears to glow and so to form a strip or line of light, wherein said multiplicity of light sources are arranged on ribbon cable support strips, and wherein said multiplicity of light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-38 remain in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 32, and 38 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found at least in lines 23-25 of page 8 of the specification. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)**

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, 19, 23-28, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,994,944 to Vernondier (hereinafter Vernondier) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,434,455 to Merritt (hereinafter Merritt). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Vernondier is directed to a lighting system including a plurality of modular components, each comprising an elongate strip of finite length, supporting or constituting an elongate lighting circuit extending along the strip and connector means for connecting adjacent strips end to end. Merritt is directed to an area light or streetlight mounted on a lamppost, the light source of which is enclosed by a lower upwardly flaring bowl having its upper end closed by a generally conical

cap. The cap and bowl are made of polycarbonate pigmented by titanium dioxide so that the cap emits only light sufficient to enable its shape to be seen in darkness. The bowl is much more translucent so as to emit adequate light for illumination.

However, neither Vernondier nor Merritt, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest "a multiplicity of light sources arranged at intervals on ribbon cable support strips within said housing, wherein said light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing" as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Vernondier and Merritt.

Claims 3-7, 9-13, 19, and 23-28 are allowable because they depend from allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, 19, and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

With respect to claim 38, Vernondier and Merritt, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein said multiple light sources are arranged at intervals on ribbon cable support strips within said housing, and wherein said multiple light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing" as recited in amended claim 38. Accordingly, claim 38 is allowable.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of Merritt further in view of JP 09258676. Applicant respectfully traverses.

JP 0925676 is directed to a method for constituting the shape of graphics and characters by continuously forming housing recessed parts for housing light emitters and forming recessed curved surface parts for diffusing the light cast from the light emitters on the inside surfaces of the housing recessed parts.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claim 8 is allowable due to its dependence upon allowable claim 1 and for the additional features its recite. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Claims 14-18 and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of Merritt and U.S. Patent No. 4,482,944 to Roossine et al. (hereinafter Roossine). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Roossine is directed to a flexible light strip assembly including a plurality of sockets and

a pair of flexible conductive elements to which the sockets are attached.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 14-18 are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. Applicants therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

For the same reason as discussed with respect to claim 1, neither Vernondier nor Roossine, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest multiple light sources that are "arranged at intervals on ribbon cable support strips within said housing, and wherein said multiple light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing " as recited in amended claim 32. Accordingly, claim 32 is allowable.

As stated above, claim 32 is allowable. Claims 33-37 are allowable due to their dependence upon allowable claim 32 and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of Merritt and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,765,938 to Rousso et al. (hereinafter Rousso). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Rousso is directed to a flashlight including a flexible core comprising a pair of conductive wires which electrically connect a source of power to a power using implement.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 20-22 are allowable due to their dependence on allowable claim 1, and for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Vernondier in view of Merritt and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,404,279 to Wood. (hereinafter Wood). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Wood is directed to a permanent lighting trim assembly. The assembly features linearly interconnected trim members having a hollow body containing lights and an openable reflective cover member that permits the lights to be displayed at the appropriate season.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 29-31 are allowable due to their dependence on allowable claim 1, and for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies in connection with this response to deposit account No. 04-1425.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dated: July 22, 2002

Sean S. Wooden, Reg. No. 43,997  
**DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP**  
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 400 South  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Tel. (202) 442-3000  
Fax (202) 442-3199

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

(Twice Amended) A strip lighting device which includes:

an elongate housing that is at least partially translucent;  
a multiplicity of light sources arranged at intervals on ribbon cable support strips within said housing, wherein said light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing; and

means to diffuse, disperse or scatter light from said light sources whereby on activation of the light sources, said housing glows when viewed from the outside so as to form a strip or line of light.

32. (Twice Amended) A housing assembly for strip lighting, including:

an elongate housing defining an enclosure for multiple light sources and being at least partly of a translucent material, wherein said multiple light sources are arranged at intervals on ribbon cable support strips within said housing, and wherein said multiple light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing;

a mounting rail; and

co-operable longitudinally extending formations on said rail and on said housing for effecting a snap or sliding engagement of the housing to the rail so that the housing is generally parallel to the rail.

38. (Amended) A strip lighting system, including:

a plurality of elongate housings at least partly of translucent material;

means in each of said housings to locate support means for a multiplicity of light sources at intervals in said housing and activatable so that the housing, when viewed from the outside through the translucent material, appears to glow and so to form a strip or line of light, wherein said multiplicity of light sources are arranged on ribbon cable support strips, and wherein said multiplicity of light sources are substantially not visible to human eyes when not activated and viewed from outside said housing, and substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing.

RECEIVED  
JUL 24 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2